

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 OPIC-03 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1834

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES

REF: (A) FBIS LONDON 210011Z; (B) LISBON 801

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER FEB. 20 SPEECH TO NATION EMPHASIZED
NEED FOR COMMON SENSE, GOOD ORDER, AUSTERITY, AND UNITY.
SPEECH NOTABLE FOR MINIMUM OF RADICAL SLOGANEERING AND
RHETORIC. INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF AFM ASSUMED AS NECESSARY
PART OF GOP ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.
END SUMMARY.

1. SPEAKING ON NATIONAL TV AND RADIO ON FEB. 20 (REF A),
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PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES HAVE HOUR AND FORTY MINUTE

EXHORTATION TO PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL. SPEECH WAS PART OF REGULAR SESSION OF ARMED FORCES CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION PROGRAM IN A SMALL TOWN NEAR LISBON. ABOUT TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE WERE PRESENT INCLUDING MILITARY, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN. DURING SPEECH, PRIME MINISTER WAS FLANKED BY ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE MEMBER CAPT. PINTO SOARES AND BRIG. OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO, COPCON DEPUTY COMMANDER.

2. PRIME MINISTER SPOKE IN SOMEWHAT MORE SUBDUED WAY THEN HIS USUAL ARM-WAVING FASHION. NEVERTHELESS, BOTH PORTUGUESE AND FOREIGN OBSERVERS FOUND HIS ORATORICAL STYLE TO BE NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS PASSION AND LACK OF POLISH AND ORGANIZATION. GONCALVES USED NOTES BUT MADE LONG DIGRESSIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING THEM. HE OFTEN REPEATED MATERIAL AND AT LEAST ONCE CONTRADICTED HIMSELF.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER'S WORDS, HOWEVER, WERE IN STRONG CONTRAST TO HIS DELIVERY. LEFT-WING SLOGANEERING AND RHETORIC WERE LARGELY ABSENT FROM THE SPEECH.

4. TONE AND GENERAL THEME: GONCALVES REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED NEED FOR PATIENCE, WITH A HEAVY STRESS ON "COMMON SENSE" AND THE NECESSITY FOR PORTUGUESE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN COUNTRY'S FUTURE. PM PLACED EQUALLY HEAVY STRESS ON UNITY, INCLUDING NOT ONLY WORKING CLASS BUT SHOPKEEPERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS. LATTER MUST ACT PATRIOTICALLY AND NOT SELFISHLY. "LUCIDITY" IMPORTANT IF PEOPLE TO CHOOSE WISELY FOR THEMSELVES.

5. AFM INSTITUTIONALIZATION: PM MADE IT CLEAR THAT AFM WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT ROLE IN DETERMINING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL FUTURE OF PORTUGAL. HE SAID THAT "THE ACTIVE AND DRIVING PARTICIPATION OF THE ARMED FORCES IS NECESSARY" AND THAT THEY MUST BE THE MOVING FORCE AND "GUARANTOR" OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAM.

6. NEW CONSTITUTION" WHILE POINTING UP NEED FOR NEW CONSTITUTION, PM OBSERVED THAT THE CONSTITUTION "MUST NOT BETRAY THE SPIRIT OF THE AFM PROGRAM."

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7. ELECTIONS: ON ELECTIONS, THE PM STATED THAT "WE ARE NOT GOING TO LOSE THROUGH ELECTIONS THAT WHICH HAS COST THE PORTUGUESE SO MUCH." HE CALLED FOR THE PARTIES TO STRESS COMMON IDEALS AND NOT DIVISIVENESS, AND SAID PARTY PROGRAMS MUST BE PROGRESSIVE. THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN MUST NOT DISTURB THE WORKING OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE PUBLIC MUST BE INFORMED BY THE PARTIES IN A CLEAR AND HONEST FASHION DURING THE FORTHCOMING CAMPAIGN.

8. ECONOMIC PROGRAM: GONCALVES SAID THE NEW ECONOMIC PROGRAM IS A PLATFORM PROMISE BETWEEN THE AFM AND COALITION PARTIES. HE QUOTED DIRECTLY FROM THE PREAMBLE TO THE ECONOMIC PLAN IN DESCRIBING THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE NEW PROPOSALS. HE SAID THERE WAS A ROLE FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT--IN THEIR PROPER PLACE. HE TOLD AUDIENCE NOT TO EXPECT THE "LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY IN EUROPE" TO SUDDENLY BECOME AN ADVANCED COUNTRY. THE MAIN POINT IS TO HELP THE UNDERPRIVILEGED. UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION WILL BE DIFFICULT TO COMBAT IN A SYSTEM AFFLICTED BY WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC CRISIS. GOVERNMENT HAS NO PANACEAS AND ALL THE PEOPLE MUST HELP.

9. PLEA FOR GOOD ORDER: GONCALVES PLEADED FOR PEACE, LABOR, AND SERENITY. IN UNUSUAL ASIDE, HE DENOUNCED SQUATTERS WHO SEIZE UNOCCUPIED OR INCOMPLETED BUILDINGS. HE TOLD WORKERS IN SMALL ENTERPRISES NOT TO MAKE DEMANDS THAT WOULD FORCE COMPANIES OUT OF BUSINESS. HE CONDEMNED ANTI-CLERICALISM, CALLED FOR GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN, AND EXHORTED STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT THEIR TEACHERS. HE DENOUNCED "EXTREMISTS AND LEFTISTS" AND SAID THAT DEMAGOGERY WOULD COMPROMISE THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

10. SIDELIGHTS" BRIG. OTELO DE CARVALHO ARRIVED AFTER SPEECH HAD BEEN UNDERWAY ABOUT 10 MINUTES. TELEVISION CAMERAS FOCUSED ON HIM AS HE DRAMATICALLY STRODE THROUGH AUDIENCE. PM STOPPED SPEECH AND WAITED UNTIL CARVALHO JOINED HIM AT HEAD TABLE. (IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO NOTE WHAT EFFECT CARVALHO'S GRANDSTANDING WILL HAVE ON HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE AFM, MANY OF WHOM ARE ALREADY FED UP WITH HIS OUTSPOKENNESS AND TASTE FOR PUBLICITY.)

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11. COMMENT: GONCALVES'S POPULIST STYLE OF DELIVERY SMACKS OF DEMAGOGERY. ON SUBSTANCE, HOWEVER, MOST OF HIS SPEECH CONSISTED OF A PEP TALK, WITH EMPHASIS--IN GENERAL TERMS-- ON THE CONTINUING ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

12. GONCALVES'S CALL FOR POLITICAL PARTIES TO EDUCATE THE PEOPLE; HIS DENUNCIATION OF EXTREMISTS AND LEFTISTS; HIS FRANK ADMISSION OF SHORTCOMINGS OF THE PRESENT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT; HIS APPEALS FOR UNITY; AND HIS PLEA FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE AFM-- ALL PARALLEL THE SPEECH OF COSTA GOMES ON FEB. 10. (REF B)- THIS SIMILARITY, HOWEVER, WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE OBSCURED BY THE WELTER OF GONCALVES'S WORDS AND HIS ARM-FLAILING DELIVERY.
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